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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HEALTH POLICY AND FINANCE  
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TRISH RILEY  
DIRECTOR

TO: Sen. Joseph C. Brannigan, Chair  
Rep. Anne C. Perry, Chair  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Sen. Elizabeth M. Schneider, Chair  
Rep. Christopher R. Barstow, Chair  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Sen. Bill Diamond, Chair  
Rep. Stan Gerzofsky, Chair  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Trish Riley, Director  
Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance

DATE: January 4, 2008

I am very pleased to forward for your review the final report of The Public Health Work Group, "Current Plans and Recommendations for Statewide Public Health Infrastructure to Be Developed within Existing Resources Over the Next Five Years".

The Public Health Work Group was established through the State Health Plan to assure all the stakeholders in public health worked together to develop a more effective and efficient public health system in Maine that would achieve our goal of making Maine the healthiest state.

L.D. 1812, "Resolve, Regarding the Role of Local Regions in Maine's Emerging Public Health Infrastructure", stipulated the membership of the Public Health Work Group and limited its membership to 40 and required the Public Health Work Group to report on its infrastructure proposal to the Jt. Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Jt. Standing Committee on State and Local Government. In addition, L.D. 676, "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force To Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs", asked the DHHS ME CDC to develop a proposal regarding Local Health Officers with input from the Public Health Work Group. That report needs to be submitted to both the Jt. Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Jt. Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Because the Local Health Officer function is critical to the broader public health system, we have included both in this one report.

I hope you concur that the Public Health Work Group has developed a proposal that will lead Maine forward with a more effective and efficient public health system that can operate within existing resources and streamline how public health services are delivered.

The Public Health Work Group has worked long and hard to develop this important set of recommendations. Our office, working collaboratively with the ME CDC in the Dept. of Health and Human Services, has been pleased to spearhead this work and would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to further discuss the plans and recommendations included herein.

cc: Dora Mills  
Members, The Public Health Work Group